

**Statement**

**On behalf of the African Group**

**by**

**Dr. Ahmed Abdelaziz**

**First Secretary, Legal Advisor**

**Before the Sixth Committee**

**74<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Under Agenda Item 78**

**“United Nations Programme of Assistance for the Teaching, Study,  
Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law”**

New York, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Madam Chair,**

Egypt has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group associates itself with the statement to be delivered by the distinguished representative of the state of Palestine on behalf of G77 and China. The African Group would also like to express its appreciation to the United Nation's Secretariat, and in particular, the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, for the activities conducted in implementation of the United Nations Programme of Assistance during the reporting period, as well as the provided forecast for the forthcoming activities as outlined in the Secretary General's report A/74/496.

**Madam Chair,**

The creation of a multilateral global order based on ensuring the rule of law on the international level has been one of the major achievements of humankind during the past century. Ever since its establishment, the United Nations – through its respective organs and mechanisms – has played an instrumental role in assisting member states in the development, codification, study and dissemination of international law. The African Group re-iterates its conviction that the Programme of Assistance contributes to strengthening the promotion of the rule of law on the international level.

As has been accurately captured by General Assembly resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965, an improved universal knowledge of international law is a means for strengthening international peace and security and promoting

friendly relations and cooperation among states. As such, not only does the United Nations Programme of Assistance for the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law directly serve the very objectives and principles of the United Nations and the foundation of the current global order, it also represents an important assistive tool for the implementation of United Nations programmes and activities worldwide.

**Madam Chair,**

The African Group notes with appreciation the activities outlined in the Secretary General's report in relation to the International Law Fellowship Programme, the United Nations Regional Courses on International Law, the Audiovisual Library of International Law, the website, in addition to Hamilton Shirley Amerasingh Memorial Fellowship. The African Group acknowledges the paramount importance of such activities in the dissemination of international law knowledge and capacity building of legal professionals worldwide, particularly in Africa. In this regard, it is noteworthy that more than a third of the applicants for the 2019 International Law Fellowship Programme were from Africa. We also attach great importance to the Regional Course in International Law for Africa which takes place annually at the UNECA in Addis Ababa.

**Madam Chair,**

We would also like to commend the activities undertaken by the Codification Division as highlighted in the report in relation to the creation of ALUMNI

networks for former participants in courses conducted by the Programme of Assistance. We find this exercise to be indeed a very useful one, aimed at the creation of a community of international law professional, which we view as a useful tool for the realization overarching objectives of the Programme of Assistance.

**Madam Chair,**

The African Group wishes to emphasize the importance of securing the necessary predictable budget for the activities of the Programme of Assistance and encourages all Member States to support the necessary allocations from the regular budget of the United Nations. The activities conducted under the Programme should definitely be a priority for all Member States in the organization. The Group wishes also to seize this opportunity to express its appreciation for all Member States that have made voluntary and in-kind contributions for the activities of the Programme of Assistance, and calls upon the Secretariat to continue to publicize the Programme of Assistance and periodically to invite interested entities and individuals to make voluntary contributions with a view of creating funding predictability for the Programme and expanding its activities for which there is rising demand.

**Thank you Madam Chair.**